

Indiana State Sentinel.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

ETERNAL VIOLENCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

INDIANAPOLIS, AUGUST 30, 1845.

Political Mysteries of Indianapolis.

CHAPTER V.

"A strange, eventful history."

"A. F. Morrison is well known to the Democracy of Indiana in connection with the press, and submits to them a review of his former labors as an evidence of his forthcoming efforts."—*Morrison's prospectus*. Morrison is not so well known as he ought to be, but as soon as he gets the old "Democrat" galvanized again, he will probably remedy the deficiency. In the meantime, to aid a little in the charitable work, and further to develop the Political Mysteries of the Capital, we present a sketch of the mutations of the Democratic Press at Indianapolis, from the beginning. This sketch is of course a mere skeleton, for it would be impracticable to fill up the picture at a single sitting. We shall complete the work as rapidly as the nature of the matter will permit. To begin with the beginning:

In 1821-2, SMITH & BOLTON commenced the Indianapolis Gazette, and continued its publication up to 1829.

In 1829, GEORGE L. KINNARD, afterwards member of Congress, became the editor; Smith withdrawing, and Nat. Bolton remaining publisher. The title of the paper was changed to Indiana State Gazette, and under this arrangement was continued about six months.

In the winter of 1829-30, A. F. MORRISON was a member of the House of Representatives, and during the session, if we are correctly informed, commenced editing the paper, in opposition to, or competition with the State Gazette. The Gazette was supposed to be friendly to Ray, who was then a prominent candidate for the U. S. Senate; and in his projected new paper, Morrison received the aid and countenance of Sam. Judah, and other aspirants, several of them competitors of Ray for the Senate. But before the new paper was started, Bolton yielded to the pressure of circumstances, and sold his interest in the State Gazette to Morrison. The purchase money, in whole or in part, was contributed by Judah and certain other men, members of the Democratic party. (We learned this fact from more than one of the contributors.) A bond, we are told, was given by Morrison for the re-payment of these contributions, which was placed in the hands of a certain well known gentleman in this town for safe-keeping. It was very safely kept, we are assured, for when the contributors called for repayment, the bond could not be found, and it was ascertained that the money was left behind! (Bolton removed to Madison and started a Democratic paper there.)

Thus MORRISON became associated with KINNARD as joint editor and owner of the State Gazette, and thus it continued for the space of five or six weeks only, when, for some cause, Morrison sold his interest to Kinnard, who became sole owner and editor. Morrison then immediately made arrangements to start a new paper in opposition to Kinnard's! We are told, (but of this fact we are not certain,) that in order to procure material for the new paper, that another levy was made on the pockets of leading democrats, under the threat, that if the money was not thus raised, a whip paper should take the place of the proposed new Democratic one, and all the recusants blown sky high!

Upon this, Kinnard having continued the Gazette but two weeks, after his purchase of Morrison, left the field clear for him, and in disgust we suppose, sold the Gazette office to a book pedler named LANGDON, who was better known by the nickname of "The Jack of Clubs."

It subsequently fell into the hands of ex-Gov. RAY, who removed it to Greensburg, where he printed the "Hoosier" for a while. It then went, the Lord knows where; but its history would be interesting enough, if it could be faithfully traced from beginning to end.

In 1830, then, Morrison commenced his new paper, which supplanted the Gazette, under the title of the "Indiana Democrat." He continued its editor till 1832, when Bolton having returned from Madison, was engaged as a substitute, while Morrison attended to his share of the famous, or more properly, the atrociously infamous Indian contracting business of that year. Many of our citizens well recollect—they cannot forget those transactions. They know that some men in this town, as well as many out of it, then and there either made their fortunes, or laid the foundation of them, on what they STOLE from the Indians and the Government! But a whole newspaper could not contain a detail of these robberies. We must pass them over here. This absence of Morrison from his editorial post was during the second canvass of Gen. Jackson for the Presidency. Attending to Indian Contracts was doubtless considered far as pleasant a business as doing a yeoman's service in the great conflict with the U. S. Bank.

In the spring of 1833, Bolton purchased from Morrison an equal interest in the Democrat, and became joint editor and publisher. Shortly after, Morrison sold out the whole of his interest to JOHN F. LANE, a son of Amos, who purchased in behalf of V. P. VAN ANTWERP, who, not taking immediate possession, the paper was published under the style of N. Bolton & Co. Van Antwerp subsequently came in, but having derived his ideas of the profit of such a concern, from his knowledge of the income of the Albany Argus of New York, he was disappointed, and retired from the Democrat in the summer of 1834. His share was then re-sold to Morrison, who acted as joint editor till the following spring, when, in 1835, he rented his interest to LEUCIUS H. EXMANS of Noblesville, for the term of two years. Exmans remained as joint editor and publisher with Bolton only till the next spring, when his contract was rescinded, and Morrison again took hold with Bolton in 1836, which last arrangement lasted six weeks!

About this period, JOHN LIVINGSTON and V. C. CUTLER proposed publishing a new paper in opposition to the Democrat. Livingston declared in favor of R. M. Johnson for the Presidency, in preference to Mr. Van Buren; and was supposed to have the encouragement of Gov. Noble in the projected enterprise, who had interests of his own to promote indirectly by the movement. But this movement was checked by another sale of Morrison's interest in the Democrat to Livingston, and thus BOLTON & LIVINGSTON became its owners and editors.

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benefit. We shall satisfy the people of this in due time.

In relation to "lack of dignity," we will acknowledge our deficiency, taking into account the *Crichtonian* example of Major John P. Dunn, in full regiments, which, peradventure, we have not regretted as we ought to have done. We shall certainly procure red cravats, and put ourselves on our best behavior. But our refined exemplar ought to make some allowance, we think, for circumstances, and to remember that it may sometimes become necessary to doff dignity to a degree when engaged in either *con* or *skunk* shinning. We generally try to suit our address as well as our dress to the duty in hand, and when we have plain truths to tell, endeavor to use plain language, without mincing. This may be very shocking to the *stern cum dignitate* of John P. Dunn, but it does well enough for common folks.

The second notice in the Beacon, which immediately follows the one we copy above, is the annexed: "THE INDIANA BEACON.—We see by the last number of this very valuable paper, that it will soon be among the things that were, as is likely to be the great county of Ohio, so soon as Sam leaves Sun Rise, which will be immediately, if not sooner. Well, Samuel is going where his great light will have a chance to shine. We have always thought, that if he only lived in another place than at immediate Sun Rise, he would certainly make a great show in the world. It is a great pity that his genius should have ever been cramped and squeezed into such a *perilous* little neutral corner as the 'Blade.' But there is a tide in offices, &c. We trust that when Mr. Covington assumes the station as organ for the great Democratic party of Indiana, he will lay aside all that little spite, and spiteful disposition he so often shows—more like a crabled old woman than a man—and feel himself at liberty to give us a true and ringing and difficult task before you that will need all the philosophy you are master of to keep you up and sustain yourself. We pray you may be able to do it. If we should occasionally have to tell you some plain truths, take them as from a friend."

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"There is already located at that point an excellent Democratic paper, which is not over liberally supported, and the party barely, if in the ascendency. To divide the patronage between two papers, let rivalry grow into jealousy between the publishers, and divisions among our friends will be exhibited at the polls, and then the 'citizens' will fall a prey to the Federalists. We have confidence in the talents and energy of Covington and Morrison, but the experience of the past warns us of dangers in the future, to our cause, to grow out of too many papers located at any one point, and we are sure, one well supported press at the Capital will be better for our principles than two half starved concerns."—*Brookville Democrat*, Aug. 22.

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In the estimation of this *verbal* spring of gentility, an old hunker is one who treated Mr. Van Buren with good faith, and honestly adhered to him to the end, for the sake of Democratic principles and party integrity. In our opinion, a true definition of "old hunker," is one who through life has made party interests subservient to personal aggrandizement, and who has ever stood ready to barter principles for office. The Beacon knows whether the clique of which it is the representative, comes under the latter category; and the people may settle the question of old hunkerism and its true meaning.

Of course Dunn will be "glad" of the re-establishment of the "Old Democrat." During its former career, men of his kidney could obtain office and get their fingers into the public purse. It naturally supposes that like causes will again produce like effects.

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In relation to "lack of dignity," we will acknowledge our deficiency, taking into account the *Crichtonian* example of Major John P. Dunn, in full regiments, which, peradventure, we have not regretted as we ought to have done. We shall certainly procure red cravats, and put ourselves on our best behavior. But our refined exemplar ought to make some allowance, we think, for circumstances, and to remember that it may sometimes become necessary to doff dignity to a degree when engaged in either *con* or *skunk* shinning. We generally try to suit our address as well as our dress to the duty in hand, and when we have plain truths to tell, endeavor to use plain language, without mincing. This may be very shocking to the *stern cum dignitate* of John P. Dunn, but it does well enough for common folks.

The second notice in the Beacon, which immediately follows the one we copy above, is the annexed: "THE INDIANA BEACON.—We see by the last number of this very valuable paper, that it will soon be among the things that were, as is likely to be the great county of Ohio, so soon as Sam leaves Sun Rise, which will be immediately, if not sooner. Well, Samuel is going where his great light will have a chance to shine. We have always thought, that if he only lived in another place than at immediate Sun Rise, he would certainly make a great show in the world. It is a great pity that his genius should have ever been cramped and squeezed into such a *perilous* little neutral corner as the 'Blade.' But there is a tide in offices, &c. We trust that when Mr. Covington assumes the station as organ for the great Democratic party of Indiana, he will lay aside all that little spite, and spiteful disposition he so often shows—more like a crabled old woman than a man—and feel himself at liberty to give us a true and ringing and difficult task before you that will need all the philosophy you are master of to keep you up and sustain yourself. We pray you may be able to do it. If we should occasionally have to tell you some plain truths, take them as from a friend."

"We have received a prospectus for another Democratic paper to be established at the capital of our State, entitled the 'Indiana Democrat,' by A. F. Morrison and S. F. Covington. The Democrat will support the claims of Gen. Lewis Cass for the next Presidency. The first number is proposed to be issued in the early part of November next. We wish the publishers all success in their undertaking, but at the same time doubt the expediency of establishing another Democratic paper at the seat of government. In our opinion two papers of that kind could not be sustained there at this time—one or the other must therefore go down."—*Venay Palladium*, Aug. 23.

"INDIANA DEMOCRAT.—We see that proposals have been issued for publishing a new paper at Indianapolis, bearing the above title, to advocate the claims of General Cass to the Presidency in 1848. This move we much regret, as we are satisfied it will result in no good to the Democratic party, as there is already one Democratic paper published at that place, and should Gen. Cass be the Democratic candidate we know that the *Chapmans* will be found where they always have been, battling manfully for the success of Democratic men and measures. Hence we see no good reason why the 'Democrat,' so called, should be encouraged to spring into existence. The fact is, the 'Sentinel' has been an efficient organ—the editors have labored faithfully—and we trust the Democracy of Indiana will not prove so short-sighted as to encourage the establishment of another paper at that place, which, at best, can result in no possible good."—*Delphi Oracle*, Aug. 23.

The Oracle does us justice in the expression of his opinion relative to our support of Gen. Cass, should he receive the Democratic nomination, and we like the positive way in which he expresses it. As to our merits or demerits in other respects, we have only this to say: we have labored to do the best we could.

"There is already located at that point an excellent Democratic paper, which is not over liberally supported, and the party barely, if in the ascendency. To divide the patronage between two papers, let rivalry grow into jealousy between the publishers, and divisions among our friends will be exhibited at the polls, and then the 'citizens' will fall a prey to the Federalists. We have confidence in the talents and energy of Covington and Morrison, but the experience of the past warns us of dangers in the future, to our cause, to grow out of too many papers located at any one point, and we are sure, one well supported press at the Capital will be better for our principles than two half starved concerns."—*Brookville Democrat*, Aug. 22.

We shall not question the "talents and energy" of Morrison, but we do question his political integrity as a Democrat. He is whig in what we regard the most essential measures of the times—Banking, Tariff, Independent Treasury and Internal Improvement. This is the only ground of our hostility towards him and his projected paper. No man can serve both God and Mammon.

OMINOUS.—There is to be another Democratic paper at Indianapolis. A. F. Morrison, for many years the editor of the State Democrat, at Indianapolis, and S. F. Covington, for a few years the publisher of the Rising Sun Blade, have issued proposals for commencing a Democratic paper at the seat of government, commencing the first week in November. It is weekly except during the session of the Legislature, when it will be semi-weekly. There appears to be trouble in the camp. The editors of the Sentinel are certainly deserving of their party for their industry—their perseverance, and their fidelity to their principles. Upon these points, we have never heard them doubt. Their talents are of the practical kind. It is true we will not have much kind feeling for them—they have often and too successfully used their barbed lances for our comfort. But we are at a loss to determine the cause of complaint with any portion or fragment of their party. But they are to have opposition. A. F. Morrison is a locofoco of the clearest stamp—he has several prominent traits of it which he could not conceal if he would. S. F. Covington is a man of considerable energy, and has published an interesting neutral for two or three years. We think he is a man of industry—a practical printer, and in some respects a practical man. But his locofocoism began to stick out so prominently lately, that we were convinced he would not remain in his neutral position long. This new paper goes for Gen. Cass.—*Brookville American*, (Whig.) Aug. 22.

We presume that the "prominent traits" to which the American refers, are not recognized as especially those of "locofocoism" by Democrats. We shall show, by and by, that in Mr. Morrison's case they are not.

The Lawrenceburgh Beacon, edited by John P. Dunn, who is connected by marriage and means with the Old Juno here, has two notices under date of Aug. 21, the first of which is the following:

"We see by the last 'Blade,' that the editor, and Alex. F. Morrison, Esq., of Indianapolis, have entered into partnership, in the establishment of a Democratic paper, styled 'THE INDIANA DEMOCRAT,' at the seat of Government, to be the organ of the 'Young Democracy,' in opposition to the 'Old Huzzards.' Of this we are glad. The course pursued by the Messrs. Chapmans, in detaching to instead of following public opinion—has made them obnoxious to a great portion of the Democracy of Indiana. The entire lack of dignity, as the organ of the great Democratic party of Indiana has made every Democrat who has any self-respect ashamed of them. The editors of the State Sentinel will learn, when it will be perhaps too late, that the duty of the organ of a party is, to express the wishes and doctrine of that party, instead of trying to force and manufacture public sentiment. We see by their prospectus that Gen. Lewis Cass is their favorite, as he is the favorite of the great mass of the people of Indiana, for the next President. We wish them good speed."

In the estimation of this *verbal* spring of gentility, an old hunker is one who treated Mr. Van Buren with good faith, and honestly adhered to him to the end, for the sake of Democratic principles and party integrity. In our opinion, a true definition of "old hunker," is one who through life has made party interests subservient to personal aggrandizement, and who has ever stood ready to barter principles for office. The Beacon knows whether the clique of which it is the representative, comes under the latter category; and the people may settle the question of old hunkerism and its true meaning.

Of course Dunn will be "glad" of the re-establishment of the "Old Democrat." During its former career, men of his kidney could obtain office and get their fingers into the public purse. It naturally supposes that like causes will again produce like effects.

As to our pretended "detaching to, instead of following public opinion"—it is sheer humbug and untruth; and we are "obnoxious" only to that class of politicians who make politics a trade, and the few that they have been able to deceive and dupe. We are "obnoxious" to these men because we have refused to attempt to delude at their bidding and for their

benefit. We shall satisfy the people of this in due time.

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